

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 161

By Hargrove

A RESOLUTION to designate April 3-9, 2005 as "Construction Work Zone Awareness Week" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, road construction and road maintenance, performed by construction workers, utility personnel, and maintenance workers, plays an essential role in our ability to be a mobile and free nation; and

WHEREAS, during the period of 1998 to 2002, there were 171 fatalities in work zones on Tennessee roads and highways; and

WHEREAS, the most frequently occurring contributing factors to motor vehicle wrecks in construction zones are negligence, careless driving, speeding, and failure to obey signs and traffic controls; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation estimates that in 2002 the economic loss due to traffic crashes in Tennessee was over 4.6 billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, 1,175 fatalities occurred on Tennessee's roads and highways in 2002; for each of these fatalities there were nineteen hospitalizations as a result of injuries sustained during motor vehicle accidents and 300 accident-related injuries that required medical attention; and

WHEREAS, drivers who are age sixty-five and older will represent 20% of the U. S. population by 2020; and

WHEREAS, construction zones present a challenge and danger to all motorists, and improvements in safety design, law enforcement, and driver behavior will benefit drivers of all ages; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Department of Transportation and Department of Safety and the Federal Highway Administration have established a vision that “All roadway users arrive safely at their destination”; and

WHEREAS, the observance of “Tennessee Construction Work Zone Awareness Week” will provide an excellent opportunity to enumerate the benefits of road maintenance and serve as a reminder to all Tennesseans to drive carefully in construction zones; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that for the purposes delineated in the preamble of this resolution, April 3-9, 2005, is hereby designated as “Construction Work Zone Awareness Week” in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this General Assembly wholeheartedly endorses and supports increasing construction work zone awareness and the stated goal to “reduce the fatality rate by 10% by fiscal year 2008-09.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.